WASHINGTON, DC- Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced that a total of \$1,072,628 has been released to three community health care centers in Kings and Fresno Counties. These funds are being awarded through the Department of Health and Human Services and were made available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Improving our Valley's community health care centers is a very wise use of stimulus package funding," said Costa. "Health centers are an essential source of primary healthcare for many of the Valley's families, especially low-income residents. Without these centers, many of our residents are forced to rely upon more costly emergency room treatment for regular medical treatment. These grants preserve the health of Valley families and save taxpayers more in the long run. I am very happy for these centers in Kings and Fresno County."

Avenal Community Health Care Center in Avenal will receive \$148,042, United Health Centers of San Joaquin Valley in Parlier will receive \$694,438 and Valley Health Team in San Joaquin will receive \$230,148.

Funds can be used by these health care centers to expand services by adding new providers, expanding hours of operation or expanding services. Each grantee submitted a detailed plan to the Department of Health and Human Services of how these funds would be used at their center.